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# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***SCAG COO Darin Chidsey to be honored as one of 30 outstanding Southern California leaders***

**LOS ANGELES** – Darin Chidsey, Chief Operating Officer of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), will be recognized Thursday at the Southern California Leadership Network (SCLN) Visionaries Awards.

In celebration of their 30th anniversary, SCLN is honoring 30 outstanding alumni of their prestigious fellowship programs, including powerful civic and community leaders from throughout the region. Honorees will be recognized at the 2017 Visionaries Awards gala on Nov. 30, at the Ace Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

“Darin has demonstrated commendable skill and dedication to making a positive impact on the region, state and nation,” said Nancy Olson, Executive Director of SCLN. “His work exemplifies the SCLN mission of driving change.”

Darin is a dual SCLN alumnus, having completed the Leadership Southern California fellowship in 2008 and the California Connections fellowship in 2012. In addition to his role on SCAG’s executive management team, he also serves on the SCLN board.

SCAG is the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization, representing over 18 million people, 191 cities and six counties. As COO, Darin is responsible for driving the vision and strategies of the agency, as well as leading the implementation of new regional initiatives. He previously served as the Director of Strategy, Policy and Public Affairs.

“It is a great honor to be recognized alongside some of the region’s most admirable innovators and role models,” Darin said. “SCLN’s fellowship programs have been instrumental in developing a strong class of leadership for Southern California.”

Other SCLN alumni being honored include:

- U.S. Representative Pete Aguilar
- Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
- Maria Contreras-Sweet, Former Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration
- Juan Devis, Chief Creative Officer for KCET
- Danielle Brazell, General Manager, City of Los Angeles Dept. of Cultural Affairs

SCLN was founded in 1987 to train and develop a network of leaders in the business, government and community sectors who are capable of addressing the challenges facing the Southern California region. The organization's core fellowship programs are California Connections, Leadership Southern California and Leadership L.A.

For more information about the SCLN Visionaries Awards, visit the event website at [www.leadershipnetwork.org/visionaries-awards](http://www.leadershipnetwork.org/visionaries-awards).

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### ***About SCAG***

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 18 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG's regional efforts, please visit [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov).